Balance of Trade between India and Malaysia

73. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI S. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of balance of trade between India and Malaysia during each of the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to boost our exports to that country, area-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The details of balance of trade between India and Malaysia during the last three years is as follows:-

(Value in US$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Balance of Trade
1992-93	187.04	405.23	(—) 218.19
1993-94	246.00	247.00	(—) 1.00
1994-95	284.83	486.68	(—) 201.85

(SOURCE: DGCI&S)

(b) A number of trade/business level delegations from India have been encouraged to visit Malaysia to boost our exports. The products covered by the delegations included oil and gas, handicrafts, telecommunications, electrical goods and electronics, power, dyestuffs and intermediates, coffee, etc., Indian companies have also been participating in various exhibitions and trade fairs in Malaysia in order to increase our exports.

Membership of SAPTA

74. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lately joined the South Asian Preferential Trading Agreement (SAPTA) as its 5th member;

(b) if so, who are the other members of the Trading Arrangement and other details of the SAPTA arrangement; and

(c) how is it likely to affect India's balance of trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir, India has ratified the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) on 22.8.1995.

(b) Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Pakistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka are the other Member countries of SAPTA Agreement. Under the SAPTA Agreement Tariff concessions have to be negotiatied amongst member countries product-wise on a step by step basis. Negotiations for exchange of first round of tariff concessions under SAPTA were concluded at the 6th meeting of the Inter-Governmental Group on Trade Liberalisation held at Kathmandu on 20th and 21st April, 1995.

(c) SAPTA Agreement is likely to enlarge intra-SAARC Trading opportunities which is expected to benefit all the trading partners.

Commission on Labour Standards

75. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Commission on Labour Standards under the Chairmanship of Dr. Subramanian Swamy has suggested adoption of a middle-path in the matter of inclusion of what is called the Social Clause within the ambit of the World Trade Organisation as suggested by the developed countries; and